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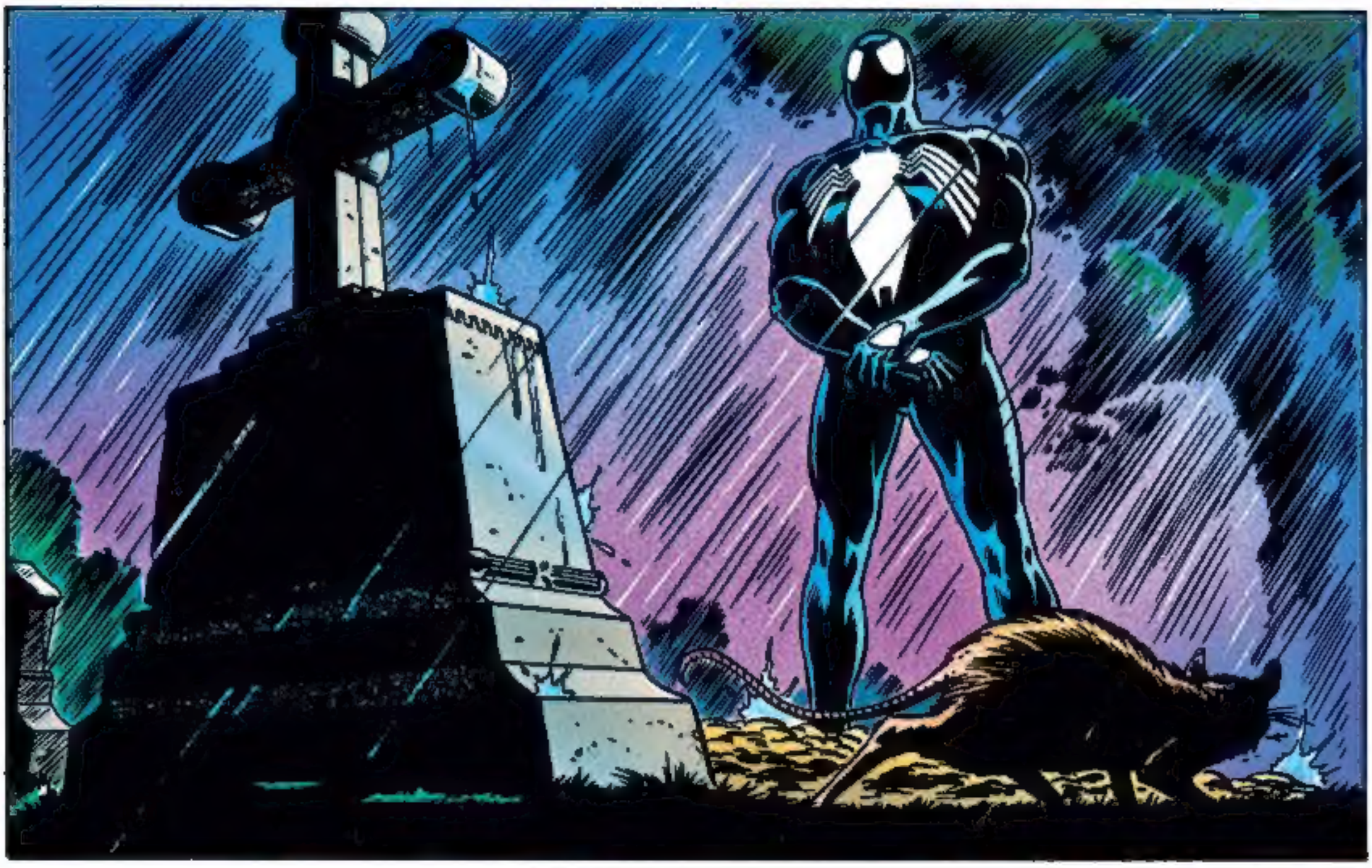
CONTINUING A 6-PART SAGA...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

PART 2

"CRAWLING"

KRA-
KOOM
HERE LIES
SPIDER-MAN
SLAIN BY
THE HUNTER



HA-HA-HA!

tippity-tippity-tap...tippity-tap tippity-tap

STUPID STINKING WEATHER.

Patsy's

lisssten to the rain fall down.

STUPID STINKING RAIN.

I HATE IT, I JUST HATE-

lisssten to the people--running like ratsss.

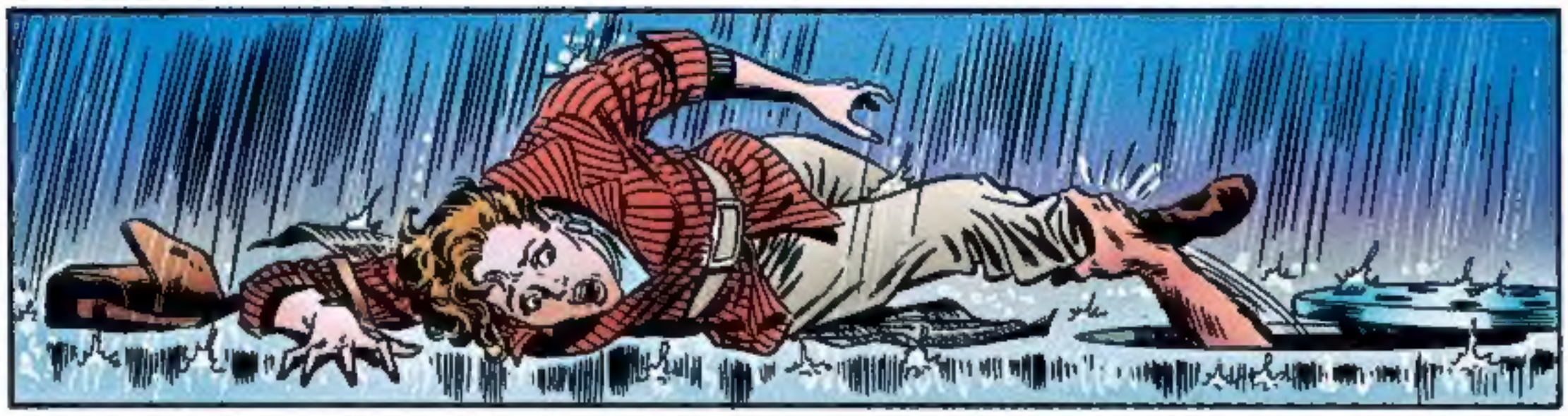
WHAT-?!

boom!

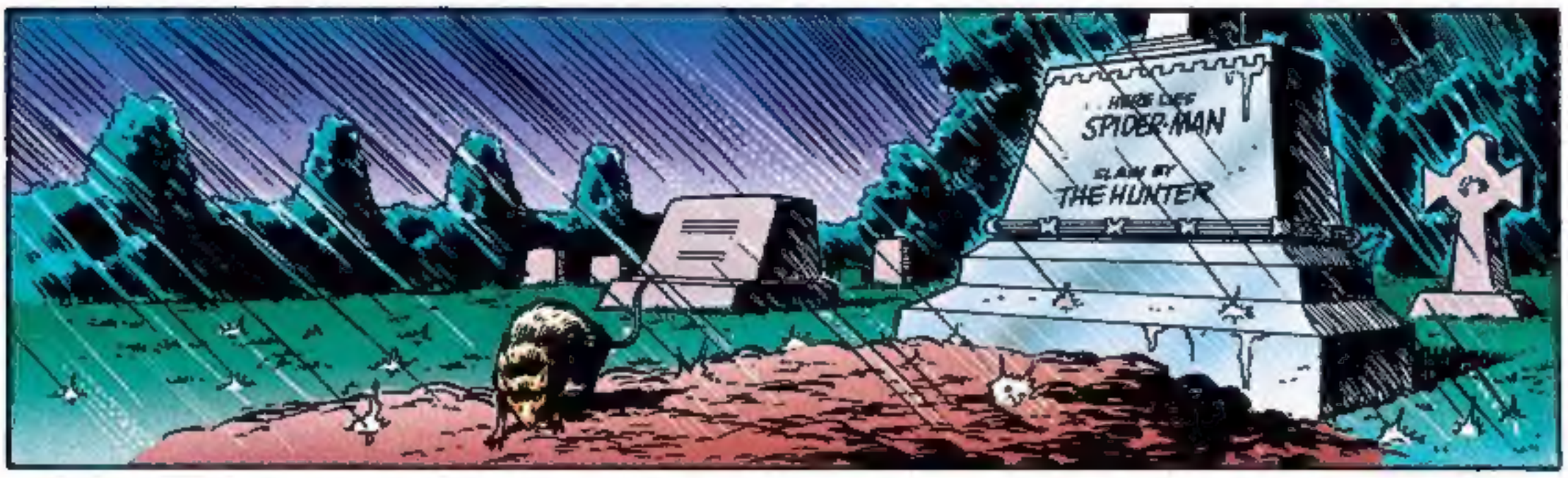
HUNGH

SHAKKK

they all fall down!



yum.


HERE LIES
SPIDER-MAN
SLAIN BY
THE HUNTER

they're ssso sstrange...the oneses that live *up there*.

look at thisss one...with her funny clothesss and sssweet sssmell.

i don't remember how they *do* that...make themsssselves sssmell like that...like...

perfume. i think that's what they call it. a massak in a bottle.

not a very *good* mask, though.

W-WHO'S THERE?

she'sss jusst like *all* of them up there. underneath the sssweet sssmell isss a sstink worssse than *mine*.

but, oh, how they like to pretend they're *better* than me.

WHO'S—?

it'sss becaussse of them that I have to *hide* down here.

OH MY GOD!

them. and their funny clothesss. and their sweet smellsss.

MY NAME ISSS VERMIN.

yum. yum. yum.

SOMEHOW, I THOUGHT BEING A NEWLYWED WOULD BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT.

SITTING BY THE FIRE, DRINKING WHITE WINE... SNUGGLING UP...

BUT, OF COURSE, THAT REQUIRES SOMEONE TO SNUGGLE UP WITH. AND MY SOMEONE... MY HUSBAND... ISN'T HERE.

WHERE ARE YOU, PETER? YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET ME HERE HOURS AGO AND HELP ME PACK UP THE REST OF MY STUFF, GET IT OVER TO YOUR... OUR... PLACE.

BUT, NO, YOU'RE PROBABLY OUT THERE WEBBING AROUND... MAKING THE WORLD FREE AND SAFE FOR DEMOCRACY... FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE AGAINST DOCTOR SQUID OR OCTOPUS OR WHATEVER HIS NAME IS!

YOU'RE PROBABLY...

...DEAD?!...

STOP THAT, MARY JANE! PETER'S BEEN PLAYING HERO SINCE HIGH SCHOOL. HE'S GOOD AT WHAT HE DOES. HE'S...

...DEAD?...

OH, GREAT!

SPEND A FORTUNE ON THESE MANHATTAN RENTS AND THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY.

FREEZE, YOU LITTLE--

HIS SIDE UP

PETER'S DEAD.

HE'S NOT DEAD! HE'S PERFECTLY FINE! HE'S JUST A LITTLE LATE! HE'S...

THIS

OH, YOU'RE A BOLD ONE, HUH? WANNA FIGHT?

THIS SIDE UP

...LYING IN AN ALLEY IN A POOL OF BLOOD. FLOATING FACE DOWN IN THE EAST RIVER. SHOT. STABBED. BONES BROKEN. HEAD CRUSHED.

SKREE

DEAD.

YOU FILTHY--

WHUDD

DEAD!!

--DISGUSTING--

UDD

SPIDER-MAN IS SLAIN BY THE HUNTER...

The Spider lies in a grave, a hundred miles from here. Down in the darkness. Blasted into oblivion.

By my hand

My greatest enemy. My greatest tormentor. That black, hideous, *beautiful* beast.

BY MY HAND.

But it's not *enough* to simply destroy him. I must *become* him! I must prove myself *superior* to him --

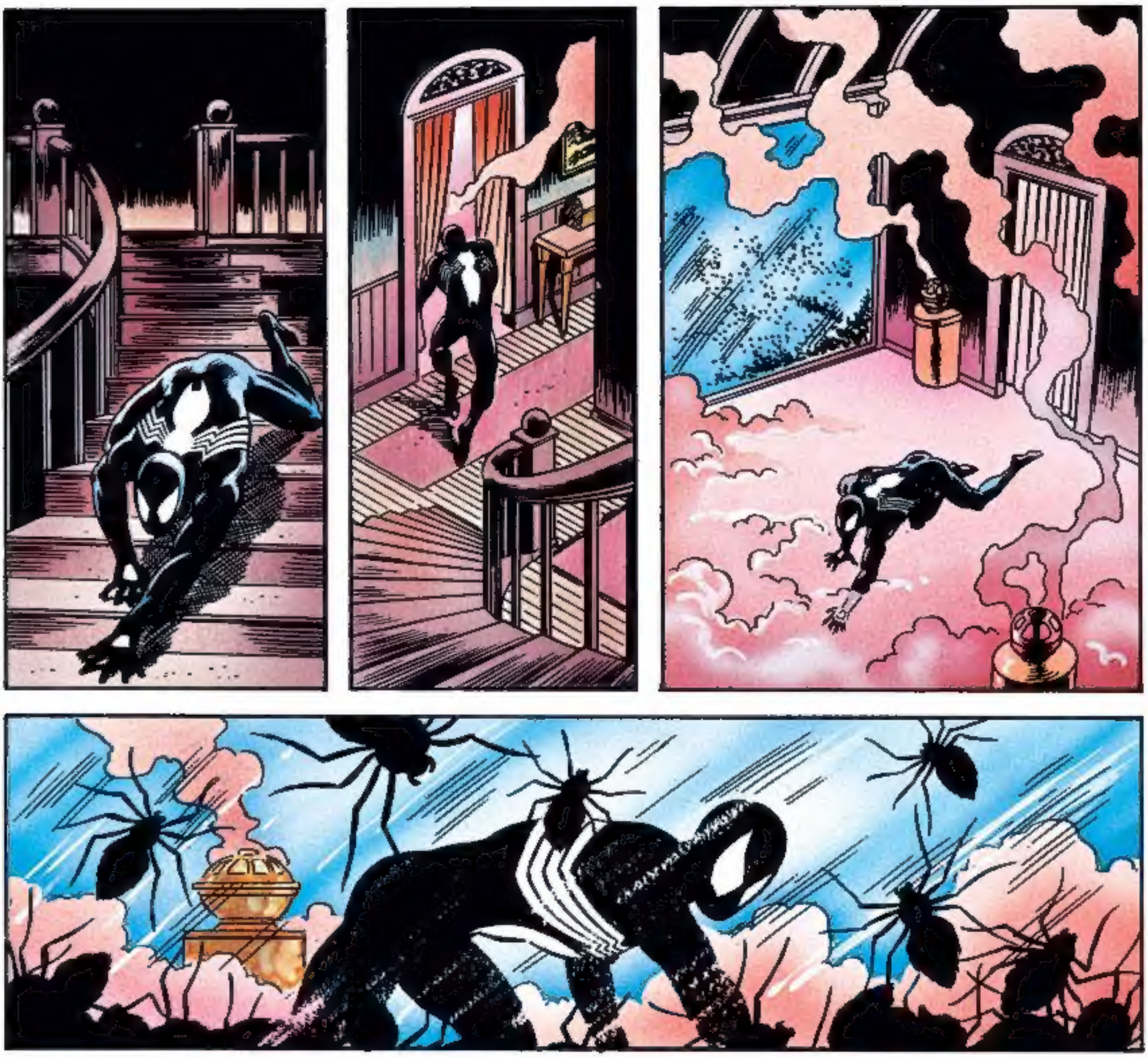
-- and laugh in the face of his hovering ghost.

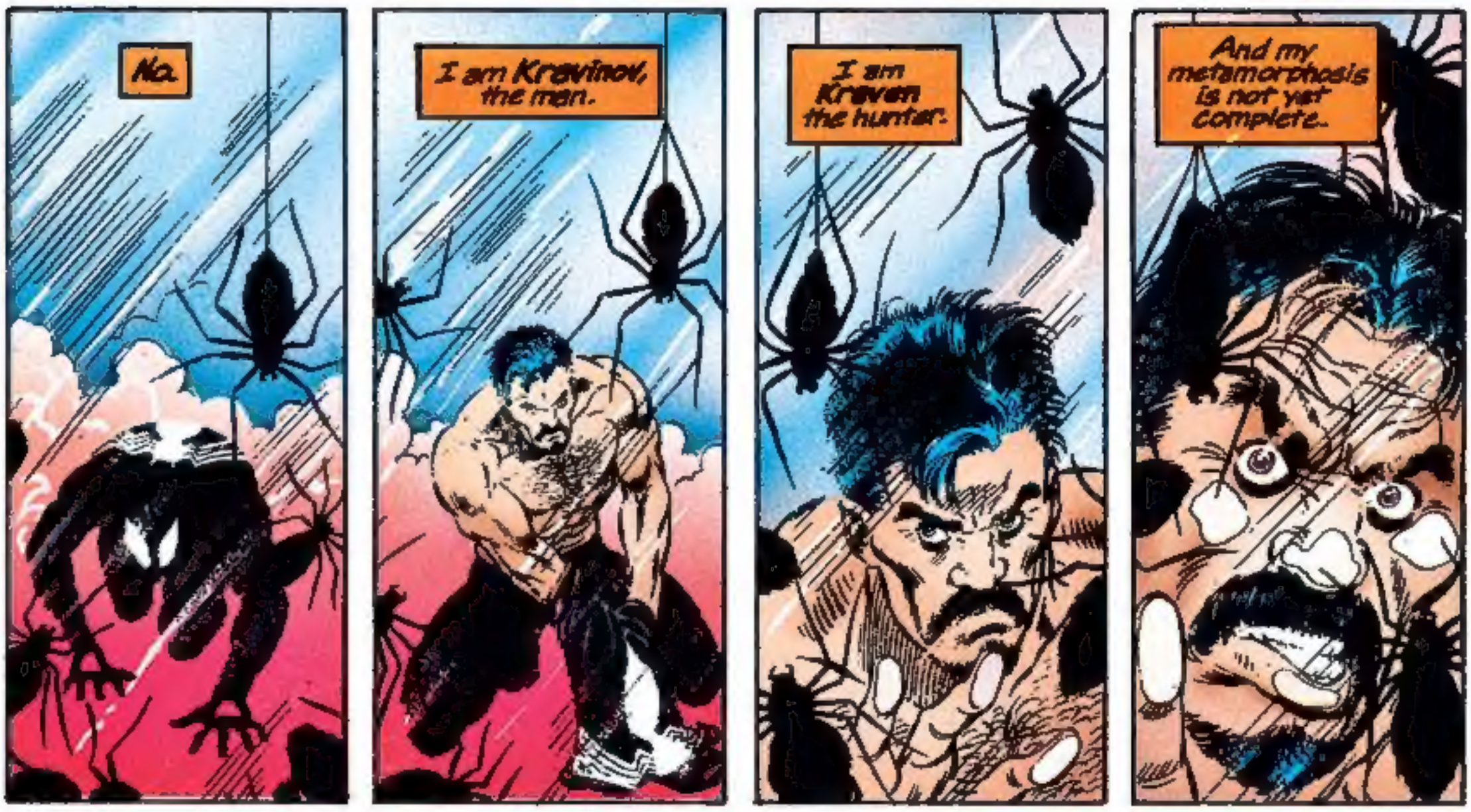
So now I see through the Spider's eyes. I wear the Spider's skin. I crawl.

Now--

I am the Spider.

THE HUNTER




No.
I am Kravinoff, the man.
I am Kraven the hunter.
And my metamorphosis is not yet complete.

My metamorphosis.

Why

I must merge with the Spider

With its blasphemous sacred essence

Why am I

With the horror and majesty at its core.

Why am I doing this?

Don't question : drink. Herbs and roots and juices, poisons, fruits, and flowers. Let them pervade your mind... widen it... shatter your Xravenness --

-- and let in Spiderness. Let in--

AYEEEEEEEEEEE

Pain.

Why am I doing this?

For honor? (Pain!) For dignity? (Pain!) For all that your father bequeathed you?

PAIN.

My father! A pompous fool .. a Russian nobleman- exiled and living in poverty in America, too attached to what **was** to ever see what **IS**!

PAIN!

No. No! Father . Father was a god! The last remnant of a world of culture and decency.

A World the Spider CONSUMED!

you did it!

Russia was the model for a new and better -- a holy! -- civilization ...and you crushed it!

KRASH!

Just as you crushed my father!

My heart.

KRASH!

You take the guise of a Trotsky... a Lenin... a Hitler... a Reagan... a Gorbachev...

...a man in a mask: it makes no difference!

SHAKKK

You crawl -- and the world becomes meaningless! You crawl -- and humankind tumbles into the pit!

YOU!

I AM

SPYDER!

COME OUT!

I AM SO

I AM SO AFRAID.

licklicklick the fingersss goodygoodgood.

tough. tasty.

yum.

sssilly world up there. sssilly people. i hate 'em 1--

...i...

i know that...that...

what'sss it called?

newsss. newsss.

newsss-paper.

picturesss, and wordsss. I could think...no, tell... no, reed the wordsss once. before. before.

before what? before I wasss? what wasss i before I wasss?

...what?!...

nononononononono!!!

bad man.. ..bad.. veryvery bad!

crowly man insect man.

spider-man.

he hurt me...yesterday? forever ago? today? hurtme hurtme hurtme.

him .and that other one... that nasssty sssoldier-man with the redwhite-blue. captain...flag? captain...

america.

isss that why i'm hiding? becaussse of them?

i'm vermin! i'm not afraid of anyone! i'll rip thossse two to pieces! i'll chew 'em up!

no...i don't hide becaussse i'm afraid. i hide becaussse it'sss good to hide. becaussse when you hide in the dark no one can sssee you or touch you or tell you what to do.

the dark isss warm and sssafe and ssstrong. jussst vermin and his sssquealing, dirty friendsss.

oh, but ssspider-man and captain america... i've got to show them

show them that i'm not afraid!

sshow them that i can come up out of the dark...

...whenever...

...i...

KLANK

RUN AWAY!

SKREEE!

SKREEE!

SKREEE!

QUIET, NOW QUIET!

WE DON'T WANT THEM TO *HEAR* US! WE DON'T WANT THEM TO *HURT* US!

SKREEE!

I

SAID

QUIET!!

YYRRAHAKKK!

TOK TOK

TOK TOK TO

i'll go up there tomorrow-- that's what i'll do. i'll go up there and i'll...

what?

i.. i hear you--but i don't--

your voice. i don't like it.

leave me alone! go away! let me hide!

WHAT AM I DOING OUT HERE? IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. DO I REALLY THINK I'LL FIND HIM?

TOK TOK TOK

GOD, THIS IS LIKE WHEN I WAS A KID AND I'D STAY OUT FIVE MINUTES PAST CURFEW AND MOM'D COME LOOKING FOR ME AND EMBARRASS ME IN FRONT OF MY FRIENDS!

I MEAN, WHAT AM I GOING TO SAY WHEN... IF... I FIND HIM?

"OH, SPIDER-MAN! YOU'VE BEEN OUT TOO LATE AND YOUR WIFE'S WORRIED!"

"AW, GEE, NOT NOW! I'M FIGHTING THE HOBGOBLIN!"

WHAT AM I DOING OUT HERE?!

OOO, I THINK I'M GONNA DIE! I NEVER SEEN ANY-ONE IN PANTS THAT TIGHT!

YEAH... AND THAT RED HAIR!

HEY, TIGHT-PANTS-- COME AND SHOW US YOUR RED HAIR!

THERE'S AN OLD LATIN PHRASE THAT APPLIES PERFECTLY TO THIS SITUATION. ...MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD IT--

"GET STUFFED!"

NOW THAT WAS SMART.

GET AWAY!

This is insane! I stand before a shadow that doesn't exist! A shadow created by my drugged mind!

There's nothing to fear! I am KRAVEN (KRAVINOV) the Hunter (man)!

There is no Spider... no supernatural creature that inhabits men's souls!

There is only Spider-Man--a costumed adventurer who...through sheer luck!...has managed to beat me time and again, down through the years!

But

But now I have finally beaten him--and I want to magnify that defeat!

BUT WHAT

Only by taking his place...by proving myself superior to him...by proving myself a BETTER SPIDER-MAN... can my victory have any completeness...any meaning!

BUT WHAT IF

Yet I insist on creating this... thing, This Spider! I cannot face the fact that a man was capable of besting me!

BUT WHAT IF IT'S

Well, stand up, then!

Face him!

BUT WHAT IF IT'S TRUE?

I am KRAVEN! I am the HUNTER!

There is nothing to fear.

When my father died... when my mother...

oh, Mother.

WHAT IF IT'S TRUE?

I AM KRAVE

I turned my back upon this corrupted world... this **sewer** that **dares** to call itself civilized!.. and I turned to the **primal**; to the unsullied

To the jungle.

How mad... how **paradoxical**!...to find dignity and honor, sanctity and civilization, in that which most men would call **uncivilized**!

But I am not "most men"! I see with eyes that pierce time and shadow and falsehood!

I am KRAVEN! And I FEAR NOTHING!

who'sss there? who'sss calling?

what do you want with **me**! why are you calling **me**?

why?

IT'S TRUE! IT'S TRUE! IT'S TRUE!

I AM SO AFRAID!

IT'S TRUE! IT'S TRUE! IT'S TRUE!

i...i undersstand. i think.

i have to go up. there'sss sssomething important i have to do.

GET AWAY! IT'S TRUE
IT'S TRUE!
GET AWAY! IT'S TRUE!
GET AWAY! IT'S TRUE!
GET AWAY!

KEEP WALKING, M.J.

DON'T LOOK BACK.

SHUT OFF YOUR MIND. SHUT OFF YOUR EARS.

YOU DON'T HEAR THEIR SNEAKERS SLAPPING THE PUDDLES.

SWAP SWAP SWAP YOU DON'T HEAR THEM GIGGLING LIKE CHIMPS IN HEAT.

OH, YES I DO!

I'M OUT OF HERE!

SWAP

SWAP

sscared.

GOTCHA!!

I'M DEAD.

they're sssscared. i can sssmell it.

but what are they sssscared of? each other? no--sssomething elssse.

OKAY, MISS TIGHTPANTS! MISS REDHAIR! YOU'D BETTER--

i can sssmell it.

I'M DEAD. I'M--

HEY--WHAT'RE YOU *SMILIN'* ABOUT?

OH--

-- SAVED.

-- NOTHING.

I am the spider.

SWAPPP

SKRAAK

SKRAK!

KKUD!

S-STOP IT!

STOP!

I AM THE SPIDER.

THAT WASN'T PETER.

ssspider-man. that'sss why i came out. i have to... i have to...

i have to eat. im hungry. i'm alwayss hungry.

no. i can eat later.

now i have to...

i'm not sure. do i have to follow him? or... or make him come to me?

doesssn't matter. not yet. i'm out-- that'sss what'sss important.

and i'm not afraid

not one bit.

don't know why i ssspent sso much time down there. hiding'sss sso ssstupid.

i'm hungry.

think i will find sssome food.

yum.

KRA-KOOM!

SPIDER-MAN

SLAIN BY

THE HUNTER